

# The POLICE BEAT



A publication of the Alexandria Police Department

Summer 2011

## 2011 CHAMBER OF COMMERCE VALOR AWARDS

On April 26, members of the Alexandria Police Department, Fire Department and Sheriff's Office were honored for their heroism and bravery at the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce Valor Awards Ceremony. Many Police Department employees received awards for their exceptional actions.



speaking with the husband, located the wife severely wounded and bleeding in a bedroom. Officer Asonglefac quickly apprehended the husband while Officer Allen arrived on scene and began to administer aid to the wife. The wife suffered a lot of blood loss but survived due to the aid given to her by the officers.

Officer Richard Magnum, Investigator Bret McCabe, Officer Michael Nugent, Officer Ryan Staab, Investigator Charles Young, K-9 Officer Kim Hendrick and "Max" and K-9 Officer Carlos Rolon and "Ajax" were honored for their bravery during an incident on July 28, 2010. The officers made up a contact team that entered City Hall to locate and apprehend a suspect. The suspect had been in a crash following a vehicle pursuit with Arlington County. He had been involved in a carjacking, robbery and violent assault earlier that day. As a result of the contact team's bravery and quick thinking, the suspect was safely apprehended.

For their acts of valor, K-9 Officer Rolon and Ajax received a silver medal. Investigator McCabe, Investigator Charles Young, Officer Michael Nugent, Officer Ryan Staab, K-9 Officer Kim Hendrix and Max all were awarded bronze medals.

Officer T.R. Allen and Officer Aloysius Asonglefac received Lifesaving Awards for their actions during a domestic violence call on July 4. Officer Asonglefac arrived on the scene first and, after

Sergeant Christopher Flood and Officer Alex Trapero were honored for their actions during a vehicle crash on June 23. They were first on the scene and located a car off the road in a yard, smashed against a tree and on fire. The car's engine was fully engulfed in flames and had begun to spread. The driver was not moving.

Officer Trapero and Sergeant Flood approached to rescue the driver, but the car doors were locked. Officer Trapero quickly retrieved a pry bar from his cruiser and smashed through the passenger side window. As they removed the driver, a small explosion threw debris which hit Officer Trapero and Sergeant Flood on the head and back. Together, they dragged the unconscious driver out the passenger-side door and to a position of safety.

After the driver had been transported to Inova Alexandria Hospital, Sergeant Flood discovered he had sustained minor burns to the face. Officer Trapero found lacerations on one of his arms. For their bravery, both received bronze medals.



Detective Rhonda Parker and Records Supervisor Jerry McHugh received Lifesaving Awards for their actions during a vehicle crash on August 30. McHugh was driving on I-95. He was passing the Occoquan exit when he encountered a vehicle crash. He pulled over and ran to assist those involved. He saw the head of the driver had gone through the windshield and was covered in glass. McHugh removed the victim from the vehicle and held his head while an off-duty medic came to assist. Detective Ronda Parker was also traveling home on I-95 and came across the crash scene. Despite being three months pregnant, she immediately pulled over and ran to assist McHugh with the injured victim. By this time, the vehicle involved had caught on fire. The flames were beginning to engulf the vehicle. Supervisor McHugh told Detective Parker to make sure there was no one injured on the tractor-trailer and to make sure all the passengers were off and directed to a safe location away from the burning vehicle. Detective Parker started directing people and traffic away from the vehicle. As Detective Parker was returning back to assist Supervisor McHugh the vehicle exploded twice within 15 minutes.



**Chief Earl Cook present Records Supervisor Jerry McHugh and Detective Rhonda Parker with their Lifesaving Awards.**



**ABC7/WJLA-TV's Chief Meteorologist Doug Hill served as the emcee for the 25th Annual Chamber of Commerce Valor Awards.**



**Fire Chief Adam Theil, Vice Mayor Kerry Donley and Mayor William Euille look on as Chief Cook presents Officers T.R. Allen and Aloysius Asongel-fac with their Lifesaving Awards.**

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# MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

EARL L. COOK, CHIEF OF POLICE



Each year, as we approve the halfway point, I like to take a moment to look back at the first six months of the year and reflect on the effectiveness of our policing strategies. The City continues to enjoy historic 44 year lows in crime. While we are proud of these historic lows, we know there is more we can do to improve the quality of life for residents and visitors.

Everyday, the men and women of this department strive to better serve their community and its residents. As members of the law enforcement community, we know that combating crime is only part of creating a better community. Our ability to improve the quality of life heavily depends on our relationships with residents, business owners and visitors. These relationships are important to us and are our greatest asset.

As we move into the second half of 2011, I want to

encourage residents to be active members of their communities. Residents who are familiar with their neighborhoods and report suspicious activity are our best line of defense. It is through these reports that we are able to track crime trends, form strategies to combat crime issues and catch criminals. I would like to remind residents to lock and remove all valuables from their vehicle even when they will only be gone for a short amount of time. With the help of our residents, we can continue to make Alexandria a wonderful place to live, work and visit.

Peace,

Earl L. Cook  
Chief of Police

# POLICE DEPARTMENT PARTICIPATES IN TEEN DRIVING ASSEMBLY AT TC WILLIAMS HIGH

On May 19, the Alexandria Police Department participated in a Teen Driving Assembly hosted by WJLA/ABC 7. The Assembly was given as part of ABC7/WJLA-TV's "Drive to Stay Alive" campaign, teaching teens the importance of safe driving. Leon Harris, anchor with ABC7/WJLA, spoke to the senior class at TC Williams High School about the effects texting, speed and alcohol have on their driving and coordination.

During the assembly, Officer Charlette Mitchell-Young answered questions about the common causes of teen crashes in Alexandria. She conducted a field sobriety test on a student wearing "Fatal Vision Goggles."

Auto accidents are the leading cause of death among teenagers, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The risk of a vehicle crash is higher among 16 to 19 year olds than any other age group, according to the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety. The Police Department and



**Officer Charlette Mitchell-Young (right) conducts a field sobriety test on a student wearing "Fatal Vision Goggles" as Leon Harris looks on.**

ABC7/WJLA-TV hope to help change these statistics by educating and increasing awareness among teens about the dangers of distracted or impaired driving



# LIEUTENANT JAMIE BRIDGEMAN GRADUATES FROM THE LEADERSHIP MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE

Lieutenant Jamie Bridgeman recently graduated from the City of Alexandria's Leadership Management Institute (LMI).

The LMI is a 10 week intensive program designed to empower, educate, support and connect motivated individuals who possess the capacity for effective leadership. Through a comprehensive program which embraces the City's guiding principles, and its commitment to diversity, the LMI promotes continuous, professional development and supports personal growth resulting in dynamic leaders and managers.

Through seminar discussions, case studies, group projects, self-study, and on-the-job experiences, the LMI focuses on enhancing participant knowledge and understanding of those key areas essential to professional and organizational growth.

"The LMI class was a great way to meet other city



**Graduates completed the City's 10 week Leadership Management Institute (LMI).**

employees that want to further their careers as city leaders. It was also nice to hear from many different city Department Heads on their thoughts on leadership and how their organizations are run. I learned a lot and I hope it will further my professional development," said Lieutenant Bridgeman





# POLICE EMPLOYEES PARTICPATE IN SPECIAL OLYMPICS TORCH RUN

On June 9, members of the Alexandria Police Department, along with other City employees, will participate in the Law Enforcement Torch Run, benefiting Special Olympics Virginia, as it passes through the Northern Virginia area. Officers will carry the Flame of Hope from the Washington Sailing Marina near Ronald Reagan National Airport to Jones Point, a leg of almost four miles.

Each June, more than 2,000 law enforcement officers carry the Flame of Hope more than 1,900 miles across Virginia to kick off the Summer Games in Richmond. For the officers, it's about more than carrying the torch for Special Olympics Virginia. It's a mission; a serious commitment by the Virginia Law Enforcement community to pay homage to our heroes – the Special Olympics Virginia athletes and their families.

Since 1986, police departments, sheriff's offices, regional jails, correctional and probation officers, as well as other law enforcement agencies such as the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) and Virginia Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC), pound the pavement every day to organize fundraisers and more importantly, promote the mission of Special Olympics. The Alexandria Police Department has been partnering with Special Olympics Virginia almost since the inception of the Law Enforcement Torch Run, raising funds and awareness about intellectual disabilities.

For more information, visit the Torch Run Web site at [www.torchrunva.com](http://www.torchrunva.com).



**Participants in the Torch Run pass by City Hall during their four mile run from the Washington Sailing Marina to Jones Point.**



**Members of the Police Department, Fire Department and Sheriff's Office run with the Morales boys, two participants in the Special Olympics.**

## 2011 SPECIAL OLYMPIC TORCH RUN PARTICIPANTS

**Dave Huchler  
Marty Hoffmaster  
James Young  
Fire Chief Adam Theil  
Richard Magnum  
Mark Wuchovich  
Garry Ground  
Allie Ground  
Eillen Oviatt**

**Sulma Keith  
Carl Wortham  
Jack Compton  
Shahram Fard  
Victor Ignacio  
Christopher Flood  
Misti Battle  
Eric Mouyal  
Sarah Smith**

**William Rutz  
Jeff Harrington  
Dottie Pope  
Krista Sofonia  
Brian Grenadier  
Jody Donaldson  
Tom Trobridge  
Andy Corso**

# POLICE EMPLOYEES CELEBRATE THEIR VOLUNTEERS

On Thursday, April 28, the Police Department honored its 22 volunteers with a Volunteer Appreciation Ceremony. Volunteers were recognized for the vital service they provide to the police department on a daily basis.

Police volunteers serve in roles essential to public safety. In 2010, volunteers dedicated over 5,000 hours of service to the Alexandria Police Department. Every year, they contribute significant hours of their own time volunteering with the department.

Members of the Police Department's Volunteer Program are assigned to each bureau. They come from a variety of backgrounds and offer a plethora of skills and abilities.

"The individuals who volunteer their time to our Department are an invaluable resource," said Chief



**Police Department volunteers gather for a group picture with Chief Cook following the Volunteer Awards Ceremony on April 28.**

Earl Cook. "We are privileged to have these men and women contributing their time to help us reduce crime and improve the quality of life in Alexandria. Their dedication and enthusiasm are an integral part of our Department's success."



## ANNOUNCING THE 2ND ANNUAL KEKOKA MUSIC FESTIVAL

Proceeds help fund scholarships for Alexandria kids to attend the Alexandria Police Youth Camp

**Saturday, September 24, from 11:00 a.m. to 10 p.m.**

**Live from the Riverfront Stage at Camp Kekoka on Indian Creek in Northern Neck, Virginia**

The Kekoka Music Festival has live acoustic rock and country blues featuring Bess Rogers with Spring Standards, Caravan of Theives, Mama's Black Sheep, Gurleys, MSG and Mary and the Janes. Come by land or sea, rain or shine.

Tickets are \$25 until September 1.

A limited number of tickets will be available after September 1 for \$35.

Advanced tickets only- available online at [www.kekokamusicfestival.org](http://www.kekokamusicfestival.org).

Cabin rental and Tent Campsites are available. Reserve via the website. Fabulous music, great food, good times for outdoor concert lovers of all ages. Feel free to bring umbrellas, chairs, blankets, and kids. Please leave coolers and pets at home.



This year, there is a cycling event, River Rhythm and Ride, on the same weekend.

For more information, visit [www.kekokamusicfestival.org](http://www.kekokamusicfestival.org). For more information on the cycling event, visit



# ALEXANDRIA POLICE SUPPORT WOUNDED WARRIORS

On April 15, members of the Alexandria Police Department attended the Wounded Warriors ceremony at the Pentagon along with Chief Keevill from the Pentagon Force Protection Agency.

The Wounded Warrior Project began when several veterans and friends, moved by stories of the first wounded service members returning home from Afghanistan and Iraq, took action to help others in need. What started as a program to provide comfort items to wounded service members has grown into a complete rehabilitative effort to assist warriors as they recover and transition back to civilian life. A poignant and little-known ceremony featuring wounded vets is held privately indoors at the Pentagon every six weeks. It's called the "Wounded Warrior March." Hundreds of Defense Department employees along with invited guests line the corridors of the Pentagon to applaud, cheer, shake hands, or



**Jerry McHugh, Detective Orlando Santiago, Brenda D'Sylva, Deputy Chief Eddie Reyes, Chief Earl Cook, Chief Richard Keevill, Officer Andy Corso, Lieutenant Len Fouch and Officer Richard Magnum attend the Wounded Warriors event on April 15.**

hug servicemen wounded in Iraq and Afghanistan.



## DEPUTY CHIEF EDDIE REYES HONORED BY TAHIRIH JUSTICE CENTER

Chief David Rohrer of the Fairfax County Police Department and Deputy Chief Eddie Reyes were recognized on May 25th at the Tahirih Justice Center 14th Annual Benefit celebrating the "Good Fellas", a recognition of the important role of men in achieving justice for women.

The Tahirih Justice Center works to protect immigrant women and girls seeking justice in the United States from gender-based violence. Tahirih provides pro bono legal representation to women and girls fleeing gender-based violence who have come to the United States after fleeing violence in their home countries such as female genital mutilation, torture, rape, human trafficking, honor crimes, widow rituals, forced marriage, and domestic violence.

Since 1997 when Deputy Chief Reyes was the Police Department's first domestic violence investigator, he has been a staunch advocate of women's rights and always taken action to prevent domestic violence and prosecute those who prey on victims that do not usu-



**Deputy Chief Eddie Reyes poses with Jeanne Smoot, Tahirih Justice Center's Director of Public Policy, and Layli Miller-Muro, Tahirih Justice Center's Executive Director following the center's 14th Annual Benefit.**

ally report these crimes to law enforcement. Chief Rohrer and Deputy Chief Reyes have been long-time advocates and supporters of the Tahirih Justice Center, including assisting them with the U-Visa program and training and testifying before the General Assembly in Richmond.



# 6TH ANNUAL SEND A KID TO CAMP GOLF CLASSIC

*Proceeds will provide opportunities for Alexandria City youth to attend summer camp.*

Old Hickory Golf Club  
7:30 A.M. Registration  
9:00 A.M. Modified Shotgun Start  
4 Person Teams - Captain's Choice  
\$95.00 per player

For more information contact:  
Chuck Seckler at 703.930.2521  
or 703.628.5808

Entry Fee includes:  
Unlimited range balls (1 hour prior to start)  
Greens fees  
Cart  
Continental Breakfast  
Post Play BBQ reception  
Beverage cart on the golf course  
Gift bag and door prizes



SEPTEMBER 28, 2011

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The Alexandria Police Youth Camp offers a unique opportunity for the children of Alexandria to experience the joys of the outdoors, the comradery of friendship and the fulfillment of learning new skills. Living just minutes from one of the largest urban areas in America, the Alexandria Police Youth Camp provides youth with the chance to visit a more rural setting.



# SCHOOL CROSSING GUARDS HONORED BY COMMUNITY PRAISE CENTER SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

On June 4, School Crossing Guards Tuesdae Fuller and Ella Courtney were honored at Community Praise Center (CPC) Seventh Day Adventist Church for their courage and commitment to ensuring the safety of the City's children.

Each year, CPC Adult Sabbath School Ministry honors individuals who provide services to residents within or near the surrounding church community. Fuller and Courtney ensure the safety of children crossing the street on their way to and from school on a daily basis. Sabbath school leaders and Pastor Henry Wright presented Fuller and Courtney with *You Make a Difference* awards in recognition of their dedication and selfless service.

In 2004, Tuesdae Fuller was faced with a critical career choice: become a school crossing guard or become a Metro bus driver. After interviewing for both opportunities, she accepted the crossing guard position and has been employed with the City of Alexandria for the past 8 years serving students of Maury Elementary School. For Fuller, the decision was not a difficult one; she chose the flexibility of being a crossing guard over long hours of driving between bus stations.

Fuller's duties as a school crossing guard bookend her workday. From 7:15 a.m. to 8:10 a.m. and from 2:25 p.m. to 3:05 p.m., she controls traffic at the intersection of Commonwealth and Oak Streets, allowing school children and other pedestrians to cross the street safely. In between these hours, Fuller shuttles her three children to school, works at a funeral home, and attends classes at the University of the District of Columbia where she is studying Mortuary Science.

Twelve years ago, Ella Courtney retired from the federal government after 31 ½ years with the Department of Defense. Ella loves being out doors, she loves children, and she is energized by people, so after researching post-retirement employment opportunities, she felt that a career as a school

crossing guard would be a perfect fit. And it has been. For the last 12 years, Courtney has worked at Russell and Oak Streets, escorting neighborhood children, who have included her own grandchildren, safely to Maury Elementary School. According to Courtney, just being able to get up every morning to help neighborhood children is what she loves most about her job.



**School Crossing Guard (SCG) Supervisor Rose McKall poses with SCG Ella Courtney and Tuesdae Fuller during a ceremony on June 4.**



**School Crossing Guard Ella Courtney guides a school bus during dismissal on June 17.**

\* article information and ceremony picture courtesy of Joanne Hutchinson

# ALEXANDRIA POLICE CONGRATULATES K-9 UNIT GRADUATES

On June 8, the Police Department held a graduation ceremony for the graduates of the Basic K-9 School, hosted by the Alexandria Police Department's K-9 Unit. The ceremony was held at 2:00 p.m. at the Police Department's K-9 Facility, located at 1108 Jefferson Street.

Three Alexandria Police officers and one Arlington County Police officer participated in the Basic K-9 School. The officers who graduated are:

- Sergeant Steven Carr and K-9 "G'Kar", Sergeant Carr has been with Alexandria Police Department since 1994 and was transferred to K-9 supervisor in 2010.
- Officer Mark Wuckovich and K-9 "Rocco", Officer Wuckovich has been with Alexandria Police Department since 1983 and was selected for the K9 Unit in 1989.
- Officer Kyle Russel and K-9 "Chance", Officer Russel has been with the Alexandria Police Department since 2005 and was selected for the K-9 unit in 2011. Officer Russel was shot in the line of duty in September 2008 while serving in the Patrol Operations Bureau.
- Corporal Thorpe Lichtenberg and K-9 "Roxy",

Corporal Lichtenberg has been with Arlington Police Department since 1987 and was selected for the K-9 unit in 1992.

The four officers completed a 15-week training course in all areas of police K-9 work, including instruction on obedience, evidence recovery, suspect search, tracking, agility, criminal apprehension, building search and tactical deployments with canine. The class was taught by lead trainer K-9 Officer Carlos Rolon, who has been with the Department since 1998 and in the K-9 Unit since 2004.



**K-9 Officer Mark Wuckovich thanks K-9 Officer Carlos Rolon for teaching the Basic K-9 School.**



**K-9 Officer Kyle Russel and "Chance", K-9 Sergeant Steve Carr and "G'Kar", K-9 Officer Maark Wuckovich and "Rocco" and Corporal Thorpe Lichtenberg and "Roxy" are presented certificates by K-9 Officer Carlos Rolon.**



# ALEXANDRIA POLICE AND SHERIFF'S OFFICE PARTNER WITH DEA FOR PRESCRIPTION DRUG

The Alexandria Police Department and the Alexandria Sheriff's Office collected 193 pounds of potentially dangerous expired, unused and unwanted prescription drugs for destruction at the second National Prescription Drug Take Back Day.

On Saturday, April 30, from 10 AM to 2 PM, the two Alexandria law enforcement agencies partnered with the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) in this initiative to help prevent increased pill abuse and theft.

Approximately 5,033 collections sites nationwide participated in the second nationwide program this past Saturday. In Alexandria, residents dropped off unused prescription medications at two drop, the Public Safety Center and the George Washington Masonic Memorial. The service was free and anonymous.

This initiative addresses a vital public safety and public health issue. Many Americans are not aware that medicines that languish in home cabinets are highly susceptible to diversion, misuse and abuse.



**Prescription drugs were collected at two locations within the City.**

Rates of prescription drug abuse in the United States are increasing at alarming rates, as are the number of accidental poisonings and overdoses due to these drugs. In addition, many Americans do not know how to properly dispose of their unused medicine, often flushing them down the toilet or throwing them away – both potential safety and health hazards.



## PART 1 CRIME STATISTICS

OFFENSE	2009	2010	% CHANGE
Homicide	2	0	-100.00%
Rape	8	13	62.50
Robbery	63	63	0
Aggravated Assault	53	70	32.08
Burglary	133	131	-1.50
Larceny	1,346	1,345	-0.07
Auto Theft	149	164	10.07
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,754</b>	<b>1,786</b>	<b>1.82%</b>

\*Crime statistics are for the period of January 1 through June 30, 2011, and are compared to the same period of the previous year. The numbers in the chart are raw and unverified. They are not the final crime statistic values for 2011 and may be changed by our review process.

# POLICE DEPARTMENT IN ACTION



**Captain David Huchler attends a meeting with his two sons during Take Your Sons and Daughters to Work Day on April 28.**



**(left to right) Deputy Chief Eddie Reyes, Deputy Chief Blaine Corle, Chief Cook and Deputy Chief Hassan Aden handed out information for Stop Child Abuse Now (SCAN) during Spring for Alexandria on May 6.**



**The graduates of the Department's Basic K-9 School prepare to take a picture before graduation on June 8.**



**Chief Earl Cook and Sheriff Dana Lawhorne prepare their remarks for a wreath laying ceremony honoring those men and women who have given the ultimate sacrifice on May 9. The ceremony was held as part of the City's Police Week events.**



**Members of the Police Department, Fire Department and Sheriff's Office Honor Guards participated in the Wreath Laying Ceremony on May 9.**



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**We're on the Web!  
[www.alexandriava.gov/  
Police](http://www.alexandriava.gov/Police)**

## **ALEXANDRIA POLICE DEPARTMENT MISSION AND VALUES**

The mission of the Alexandria Police Department is to provide competent, courteous, professional and community-oriented police services. We are committed to maintaining and enhancing a strong and productive partnership with the community to continue to reduce crime and improve the quality of life in all of Alexandria's neighborhoods. We are dedicated to protecting life and property while assuring fair and equal treatment to everyone.

Central to the Department's mission are the values that guide its work and decisions.

We, the men and women of the Alexandria Police Department, value:

- Human Life
- Dignity
- Integrity
- Laws and Constitution
- Excellence
- Accountability
- Cooperation
- Problem-solving
- Ourselves

**The Alexandria Police Department honors its family fighting for our country overseas: Ji Tam**

## **2011 RETIREMENTS**

Bruni Confesi-Toro  
Thomas Durkin  
Jesse Harman  
Kim Hendrick  
Peyton Jones

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